

REMARKS

Claims 40-41, 44-47 and 68 stand rejected in the office action. Claims 1-39 were indicated as being allowable. Claims 42-43, 48-67 and 69-70 were indicated as allowable but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claims 42-43, 48-67 and 69-70 have been rewritten in independent and allowable form. In particular, the claimed feature previously found in now-canceled claim 65 has been added to amended independent claim 40. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request allowance of amended independent claim 40 and its dependent claims 41-64 and 66-70.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (SIDS), is being filed herewith so as to permit consideration of the references cited numbered 137-160; Form PTO-1449 (3 pages). A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) also is being filed herewith to permit consideration of the newly cited references.

Formal drawings were filed with the Response to Notice to Correct Application Papers on March 18, 2004. Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the drawings as formal.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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